

REMARKS

CLAIMS

Claims 1-38 are pending and are subject to restriction.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action, the Office is requiring restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-12 and 28, drawn to a composition, classified in class 435, subclass 366.

Group II: Claims 13-27, drawn to a method for culturing cells, classified in class 435, subclass 373.

Group III: Claims 29-38, drawn to a method for extending immune/organ function, classified in class 435, subclass 1.1.

ELECTION WITH TRAVERSE

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, with traverse.

Reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement is requested for the following reasons:

Applicants point out that under MPEP §803, there are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction, namely: (1) the invention must be independent and distinct; AND (2) there must be serious burden on the Examiner for restriction to be required.

Applicants respectfully contend that the second requirement of MPEP §803 has not been met. The Patent Office has not demonstrated a serious burden for searching the art of Groups I-III. The Examiner can perform a search on the entire application without serious burden. Thus, search of the art with regard to the invention of Groups I-III would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. Moreover, separate prosecution of these claims would be unnecessarily duplicative and thus wasteful of Patent Office resources. Therefore, under MPEP Section 803, the instant claims do not require restriction.

Applicants submit that claims of Groups I-III should properly be examined together for the reasons discussed above. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement as to these claims.

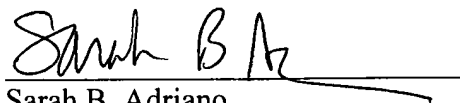
CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone her at the number provided below.

Syed Z. Salahuddin
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No fee, other than the \$510.00 fee for three-month extension of time, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this response. If any further fee is necessary, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah B. Adriano", followed by a horizontal line.

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